

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A polarized light reflecting element includes a plurality of stacked cholesteric liquid crystal layers. Each cholesteric liquid crystal layer is polymerized and has a helical liquid crystal molecule array and a helical axis that extends substantially in the normal direction. The in-plane mean value  $\alpha$  of the respective helix angles of liquid crystal molecules is nearly  $n\pi$  ( $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ). The cholesteric liquid crystal layers have their liquid crystal molecules continuously oriented on the interfaces between them, and form one smooth helical structure as a whole.

5

10

Patented Apr. 2, 1991